

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended): A method for launching a web browser application on a user's computer, comprising the steps of:

providing a browser application on the user's computer that is launchable in response to predetermined browser inputs being received by the user's computer, which predetermined browser inputs comprise a set of user computer inputs that are operable to be interfaced to outputs of one of a plurality of browser input computer peripherals, each of the plurality of browser input computer peripherals having a predetermined browser input functionality and purpose;

providing a non-browser input that is not a portion of the set of predetermined browser inputs for generating an input signal that is not part of the set of computer inputs, and the non-browser input associated with a non-browser input computer peripheral having a non-browser input functionality and purpose;

converting the non-browser input in an interface device to simulate as a simulated browser input to the user's computer one or more of the predetermined browser inputs as a simulated browser input to the user's computer, such that an input that is associated with one of the outputs of one of the browser input computer peripherals will be able to receive information from the non-browser input of the non-browser input computer peripheral just as if it had been generated by the one of the outputs of [[the]] one of the browser input computer peripherals, such that the non-browser input functionality and purpose are changed to a browser input functionality and purpose associated with at least one of the browser input computer peripherals; and

launching the web browser on the user's computer over a connection established with this simulated browser input and, in response thereto, accessing information on a network.

2. (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of providing a non-browser input comprises:

providing a first portion of the non-browser input that is generated local and external to

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the user's computer at the user's location;

providing a second portion of the non-browser input that is retrievable from a separate location than the first portion; and

combining the first and second portions to provide the non-browser input.

3. (Original): The method of Claim 2, wherein the second portion is not retrieved from a location local to the user's computer.

4. (Original): The method of Claim 3, wherein the step of providing the second portion comprises retrieving the second portion from a location on the network by accessing the network from the user's computer to an intermediate location on the network, retrieving the second portion therefrom and transferring the retrieved second portion back to the user's computer for use by the step of combining.

5. (Original): The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of providing the first portion comprises reading a machine readable code, the step of reading a machine readable code comprising causing the generation of the first portion.

6. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of converting comprises the step of adding additional information in the interface device to the input information received from the non-browser input.

7. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 6, wherein the additional information comprises a control code.

8. (New) The method of Claim 7, wherein the control code is operable to launch the browser application.

9. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein the interface device is an optical barcode scanner.

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10. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein the barcode scanner has an output that interfaces with the user's computer such that the output will not be recognized as part of the set of user computer inputs that comprise the predetermined browser inputs.

11. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the non-browser computer peripheral comprises an optical barcode scanner for scanning an optical barcode, decoding the information therein and providing a digital output therefrom representing a digital value associated with the decoded information, the decoded information comprising a sequence of alphanumeric characters.

12. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the interface device is operable to convert the digital value to a plurality of keyboard keystrokes to simulate keying in of the sequence of alphanumeric characters such that the simulated browser input comprises a keyboard input associated with a keyboard computer peripheral that constitutes one of the set of browser input computer peripherals.

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